

as wheat, alcoholic beverages, meats, etc., have been compiled for a considerable period on a total basis. The War, however, has made it more necessary than ever to establish consumption data on a comparable basis and the foundation has now been laid to build them up on a sound foundation which can be carried into the post-war period.

The series given in Table 2 presents official estimates of supplies of food moving into civilian consumption in pounds per head per annum for the five pre-war years, 1935-39, as an average for comparison with the individual years, 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 (the estimates for 1943 are preliminary and subject to later revision). For those foods rationed under Government control, the data have been checked by officials of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. As pointed out, the figures include supplies moving into civilian consumption only after adjusting total production for imports, exports, changes in stocks, marketing losses, industrial uses and supplies going to the Armed Forces. The per capita figures are then derived by dividing by the total civilian population. All calculations are made at the retail stage of distribution except for meats where figures are worked out at the wholesale stage. The amounts of foods actually eaten would be somewhat lower than the figures cited because of losses and wastes occurring after the products reached the hands of consumers. It should also be pointed out that there are minor discrepancies in certain of the figures since storage stocks in the hands of retailers and consumers were not available for certain commodities. In the main, however, the figures represent the best picture of food consumption data that has been compiled for Canada.

All basic foods have been classified into fourteen main commodity groups. Totals for each group have been computed by using a common denominator for that group (such as milk solids—dry weight—in the case of the milk and milk products group; fat content in the case of oils and fats; and fresh equivalent in the case of fruits). All foods have been included in their basic form, that is, as flour, fat or sugar, rather than in more highly manufactured forms.

The outstanding deduction from the statistics is that supplies of foods moving into civilian consumption throughout the war period have, with relatively few exceptions, increased over the pre-war five-year term in spite of increased exports of a number of important agricultural commodities and the huge demands for foods of all kinds by the Armed Forces stationed in Canada. It is noteworthy that the production of most foodstuffs has been adequate to meet these demands and to leave increased quantities available for the civilian population.

Thus the consumption of milk and milk products has increased substantially during the war period, particularly fluid milk. Cheese consumption has remained constant despite a sharp increase in production. All of the additional supplies have been shipped to the United Kingdom. The increase indicated for milk in ice cream overstates the true civilian consumption as it is impossible to determine the portion of ice-cream production that has been sold through military canteens. Total supplies of meats have also risen materially with the main increase occurring in beef. As meat rationing did not come into effect until May, 1943, and as consumption was heavy during the early months of the year, the effects of rationing are not reflected in the 1943 annual average figures. It will be noted that the consumption of pork was approximately the same in 1943 as during the pre-war period. The spectacular increase that has taken place in hog production has all been made available to the United Kingdom. There has been a gradual rise in the consumption of poultry meat over the war period but supplies of fish have declined